

Formula of Agreement and Ordained Ministerial Partnership Issues

Formula of Agreement

<http://archive.elca.org/ministry/pdf/formula.pdf>

1. Description

The Formula of Agreement is a 1997 reconciliation of ministries between the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Presbyterian Church USA and the Reformed Church of America. By this agreement, we honor each ordained ministers (previous to 1997, UCC ministers were occasionally “re-ordained” by one of the partner communions). It is important to remember that when an ELCA, PCUSA or RCA candidate approaches the United Church of Christ, the candidate may only be considered by a local congregation at the invitation of a conference/association staff person. The Agreement does not open the UCC search and call process to ministers from the Agreement communions!

2. Steps

The process to be followed:

- (a) The candidate will meet with a Committee on the Ministry
- (b) The candidate will be expected to complete a UCC Polity course
- (c) With the support of the Association Committee on the Ministry, the minister’s ELCA, PCUSA or RCA profile (note: candidates do not fill out a UCC ministerial profile) may then be given to a local church search committee for its’ consideration.

Ordained Ministerial Partner

<http://www.ucc.org/ministers/manual/MOM 05 Ordained Partner.pdf>

1. Description

Ordained Ministerial Partner is a full partnership and reconciliation of ministries between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. By this agreement, all UCC and Disciples ordained ministers are Ordained Ministerial Partners. Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing, however, is necessary to enter the UCC search and call process. This authorization is conferred by an association/conference Committee on the Ministry. Section 5 of Manual on Ministry fully explains the process to be followed when a Disciples’ or UCC minister requests Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.

2. Steps:

The process to be followed:

- (a) A candidate will seek Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing from one of our associations
- (b) The Committee on the Ministry will be assured that the candidate has a proper knowledge of and commitment to the United Church of Christ (a UCC Polity course is usually required)
- (c) The Committee on the Ministry gives “provisional” Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing notifying Parish Life and Leadership
- (d) The Disciples minister completes a UCC ministerial profile (checking “Ordained Ministerial Partners Standing” in the profile) that will then be circulated as any other UCC profile.
- (e) Upon acceptance of a Call, the Disciples’ minister is then granted full Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing. That “Standing” remains only as long as the Disciples minister is serving the UCC congregation.
- (f) When a Disciples minister who has previously held OMPS desires to enter the Search and Call process of the UCC again, he/she should present him/herself to the Committee on the Ministry of the association/conference in which he/she is living, and confirm that he/she continues to have appreciation for and knowledge of the UCC.
- (g) Once the Committee is satisfied that is the case, it will be reported to PLL and the Disciples minister can then fill out a UCC ministerial profile once more.